

Mr. Speaker, I hope you will join me in applauding the dedication and duty demonstrated by the courageous men and women of the 101st Airborne Division of the United States Army. Their love for our country, the safety of its people and the protection of its liberties, is what makes this nation free and great.

TRIBUTE TO JOY BRYSON

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2003

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a wonderful person and former member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee staff who passed away a few weeks ago, Mrs. Joy Bryson. Just one year ago, I rose to congratulate Joy on her retirement. Her retirement was all too short. As Joy's family returns from taking her home to North Carolina, I rise to honor Joy once again.

Joy was a much-loved member of the T&I Committee Staff, and we all miss her very deeply. All of us, Member and staff alike, suffered with her through her long ordeal with breast cancer and its permutations, a struggle that I know all too well from my own experience, losing my late wife, Jo, after an eight-and-a-half year battle with the same disease.

When in remission, Joy worked as an active advocate for breast cancer research and for cancer research and treatment. Joy was a very strong advocate for the work of the Breast Cancer Research, Treatment, and Education Center at George Washington University Hospital. She actively supported efforts in the private sector community to raise funds for the "mammavan" project of G.W. Hospital that helps provide mammograms for women in underserved areas of Washington, D.C., and the international community of the city.

Joy dealt with her long struggle with cancer privately. She did not want attention brought to her, which, in a way, was unfortunate, because many of us wanted to comfort, support, and console her. But, she carried on, with her loving family by her side, a very private campaign that she ultimately lost.

I ask all of you to keep her and her family—her husband, Lit, and her two children, Chris

and Jeni—in your prayers. Keep those who are left behind in your prayers. They are the ones who need it most. Joy will be where her name suggests, in the joy of eternity, in the hands of our loving Father.

COMMEMORATION OF TIBETAN UPRISING DAY

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2003

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite all my Colleagues to commemorate during this week the 44th anniversary of one of the most tragic events in Tibetan history. During the bloody "Lhasa Uprising" in 1959, courageous people were killed while standing up for the religious, political and cultural rights of all Tibetans. Throughout this uprising, many large Tibetan cities were destroyed by Chinese artillery, His Holiness the Dalai Lama was forced into exile for fear of his life and, according to Chinese statistics, nearly 87,000 Tibetans were killed, arrested or deported to labor camps.

The brutal crushing of the Lhasa Uprising tragically only further highlights the brutal suppression of the Tibetan people, which began with the Chinese invasion in 1948 and continues to this very day. Facing brave resistance after the invasion of Tibet, the People's Republic of China forced the Tibetan Government to accept a 17 point agreement in 1951 by threatening Tibet with further military force. The agreement made Tibet a part of China, but assured the people of Tibet that all political, cultural and religious institutions, including that of the Dalai Lama would be preserved. China has yet to stand by these promises. After systematic and ongoing violations of the agreement, a growing Tibetan rebellion began to reach a national scale.

The Chinese blamed His Holiness the Dalai Lama for the resistance and rumors began to stir of plans to kill or kidnap him in reaction to this rebellion. On March 10th, 1959 the people of Lhasa surrounded the Dalai Lama's Norbulingka compound in hopes to protect their leader from an almost certain death, and the also demanded that the Chinese leave

Tibet. This day is remembered by the Tibetan Community around the world as "Tibetan Uprising Day." One week later, on March 17th, 1959, as feared by many, the People's Liberation Army began shelling the Dalai Lama's complex. Unbeknownst to the PLA the Dalai Lama had fled to India only a short 48 hours before the attack.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Tibet have faced persistent brutal oppression for nothing more than the crime of having different beliefs than those of the Chinese government. Since China's occupation of Tibet, the PRC has enforced its despotic rule with violence such as military occupation, population transfers and the destruction of Tibetan cultural and religious institutions. The people of Tibet have had almost every human right possible violated over the past 50 years. To this day, the PRC continues to violate the 17 point agreement and commit horrifying human rights abuses in Tibet. The citizens of this country suffer through arbitrary arrests, detention without trial, torture and persecution for speaking out peacefully on political and religious views.

As an American, I am proud to defend the Tibetan right to self-determination and recognize today as "Tibetan Uprising Day." In 2002, under the Tibetan Policy act, which I authorized, the US Congress articulated our support for the Dalai Lama's attempt to attain a negotiated settlement through means of dialogue and not violence. The fact that this atrocity has gone on for so long is completely outrageous and unacceptable. The people of Tibet had their lives stripped from them; everything they knew and loved was taken in a appalling manner. These people not only fought and died for their own freedom, but for the freedom of their children and all future Tibetans. In 1989, the international community recognized the tremendous contributions his Holiness has made to a negotiated settlement through non-violent means by awarding him the Nobel Peace Prize. I commend the Dalai Lama and his people for their determination and strength throughout this ordeal. On this day of remembrance I hope everyone will take a moment to reflect on the situation to Tibet, and also consider what we have done and what we can still do in the future to further assist this country in their struggle for a peaceful resolution.